Ac 4424(3)

AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
43, BUCKINGHAM STREET,
AYLESBURY,
BUCKS.

1 ~~Dr N.R. Beattie~~
2 P.R.O London Region
3. Miss Buchanan
4. ~~Miss Gray~~
5. LIBRARY - S. Row

August, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and vital statistics of the Aylesbury Rural District for the year 1959.

Surveys were made during the year by No. 1 Unit of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, Mass Radiography Service, at Westcott and at H.M. Prison, Grendon Hall. The results have been incorporated in the report. Further details have been included of the various parishes where the general public presented themselves for X-Ray examination.

There was a large increase in the number of measles cases notified (586) but no deaths were reported as a direct result of the disease. It is gratifying that there was no notification of the severer infectious diseases, such as diphtheria, poliomyelitis, or meningitis. Apart from one case of dysentery of a mild type, there was no notification of enteric disease. The single malaria notification occurred in a Royal Air Force serviceman in transit from Africa. A case of psittacosis, in a woman who had contracted the disease from budgerigars in overcrowded cages, was successfully treated. The birds were destroyed as a precautionary measure. The five cases of food poisoning were due to contaminated processed meat. Investigation showed that the outbreak had a very close connection with widespread outbreaks in South-East England and was caused by the same organism. Anthrax in a beast, suspected by an operative, was confirmed. He had been called to deal with the animal as a casualty. Precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease were quickly instituted, due to its timely notification.

During the year, at the request of the Welfare Authority, one removal to hospital was required under the National Assistance Act, 1951.

I thank the Members of the Council and the staff for their loyal assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN T.C. SIMS-ROBERTS, M.B., CH.B., L.R.C.P.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) Area of the District..... 89,313 acres.

(b) Total Population (Estimated mid-1959)..... 32,460

(c) Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959, according to Rate Book)..... 9,295

(d) Rateable Value.....£367,821

(e) Sum represented by a Penny Rate..... £1,460

UNEMPLOYED

At 31st December, 1958:	At 31st December, 1959:
61 women	52 women
100 men	91 men
161	143

VITAL STATISTICS

	1958 Total	1958 M	1958 F	1959 Total	1959 M	1959 F
Live Births - Legitimate	536	272	264	533	276	257
Illegitimate	16	9	7	24	12	12
Live birth rate per 1,000 population		18.3			17.2	
Birth rate (corrected)		20.6			19.4	
Birth rate for England & Wales		16.4			16.5	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		3.0			4.3	
Still Births: Number	9	5	4	15	10	5
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		16.0			26.2	
Total live and still births	561	286	275	572	298	274
Infant Deaths:	5	4	1	12	7	5
Infant mortality rates:						
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		9.1			21.5	
- do - legitimate		9.3			22.5	
- do - illegitimate		-			-	
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales		22.5			22.0	
Neo-Natal mortality rate:						
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) Number	5	4	1	9	6	3
Rate		9.1			16.2	
Early Neo-Natal mortality Rate:						
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) Number	5	4	1	9	6	3
Rate		9.1			16.2	
Perinatal mortality rate:						
(Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)						
Number	14	9	5	24	16	8
Rate		25.0			42.0	

D E A T H S

1958			1959		
Total	M	F	Total	M	F
329	161	168	333	172	161

	1958	1959
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	10.9	10.3
Standardised Death Rate.....	9.5	9.8
Death Rate for England and Wales.....	11.7	11.6

Deaths from Cancer 58

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

Disease	Number of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	1	7
" " lung, bronchus	6	-	6
" " breast	-	6	6
" " uterus	-	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	18	16	34
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
Diabetes	4	-	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	28	46
Coronary disease, angina	30	20	50
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	17	20	37
Other circulatory disease	4	7	11
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	15	13	28
Bronchitis	15	10	25
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	17	28
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	3	6	9
Suicide	-	2	2
Homicide	-	-	-

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases:

Disease	1958 No. of Cases Notified	1958 No. of Deaths	1959 No. of Cases Notified	1959 No. of Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	152	-	586	-
Whooping Cough	10	-	9	-
Scarlet Fever	24	-	18	-
Pneumonia	7	17	10	28
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	2	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis..	-	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poiliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	6	-	1	-
Para-Typhoid	-	-	-	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	1	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	5	-
	200	17	633	28

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Age Periods	New Cases Respiratory M	New Cases Respiratory F	New Cases Non-Respiratory M	New Cases Non-Respiratory F	Deaths Respiratory M	Deaths Respiratory F	Deaths Non-Respirat M	Deaths Non-Respirat F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	3	-	1	1	-	-	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

Hospital accommodation for the District is provided by the Royal Bucks and Tindal Hospitals. Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

These three hospitals are administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

Cases are admitted to the Stoke Mandeville Hospital or the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, if bed space is unavailable at the above. Similarly, infectious disease cases are admitted to infectious disease hospitals within the Oxford region when there is no accommodation locally.

Pathological Specimens

The majority of specimens for examination are submitted to the Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised whenever necessary.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance services in the area are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council. Eight ambulances are stationed in the Borough of Aylesbury for the use of the town and surrounding district, and 4 sitting cars.

Maternity and Child Welfare

This service is controlled by the Bucks County Council. Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Aylesbury, Brill, Long Crendon, Waddesdon, Quainton, Haddenham, Wendover, Whitchurch, Worminghall, Aston Clinton, Dinton, Halton, Stone, and Mobile Welfare Entres at Cuddington, Grendon Underwood and Westcott.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough immunisation and Poliomyelitis vaccination

The Bucks County Council, being the Local Health Authority as defined by the National Health Service Act, 1946, administer these services.

Treatment of Venereal Disease

A venereal disease clinic is held regularly at the Royal Bucks. Hospital, Aylesbury, where free treatment is given. This clinic is administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

PART I

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	No. on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	55	11	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	52	10	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).....	69	6	-	-
Total.....	176	27	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of case which prose ions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	1	-

PART VIII

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

There are 10 outworkers in the district all engaged in the making o wearing apparel. The premises in which the work is carried out have bee inspected and found to be satisfactory in respect of conditions set out in the Act.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

No. 1 Unit, Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT - FIRST SURVEY.

1st - 23rd September, 1959.

Response from firms - 76%

Summary of Work	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	1,249	1,790	3,039
No. recalled for large films	29	41	70
No. recalled for clinical examination ...	8	12	20
No. referred to chest clinic	3	4	7
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	590	681	1,271
No. not previously examined by M.M.R. ...	659	1,109	1,768

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic:

Actibe pulmonary tuberculosis requiring treatment	2	1	3
(These were newly discovered cases; 1 had a positive sputum; 2 had previous satisfactory M.M.R. examinations)			
Presumably inactive pulmonary tuberculosis but requiring close supervision	-	1	1
Presumably inactive pulmonary tuberculosis but requiring occasional supervision ...	-	2	2
Bronchial carcinoma	1	-	1
	3	4	7

Results of cases clinically examined by the Medical Director but not referred to Chest Clinic:

Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	-	1	1
Substernal thyroid	1	1	2
Pneumonitis	1	1	2
Bronchiectasis	-	1	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	2	1	3
Diaphragmatic hernia	-	3	3
Acquired cardiac abnormality	1	-	1
	5	8	13

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

SUMMARY OF NEWLY DISCOVERED SIGNIFICANT CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS FOUND

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.	Rate per Thousand	Inactive P.T.	Rate per Thousand
Quainton	206	-		-	
Waddesdon	373	-		1	
Haddenham:					
General public	157	-		1	
Firms	381	2		-	
Long Crendon	210	-		-	
Brill	149	-		-	
Westcott (excluding RPD)	77	-		-	
Aston Clinton	402	-		-	
Weston Turville	262	-		-	
Wendover	822	1		1	
TOTAL:	3,039	3	.99	3	.99

ROCKET PROPULSION DEPARTMENT, WESTCOTT

Fourth Survey - 15th - 16th September, 1959.

Summary of Work	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	648	53	701
No. recalled for large films	22	-	22
No. recalled for clinical examination .	4	-	4
No. referred to chest clinic	1	-	1
No. previously examined by M.M.R. ...	526	44	570
No. not previously examined by M.M.R...	122	9	131
Result of case referred to Chest Clinic			
Bronchial carcinoma	1	-	1
Results of cases clinically examined by the Medical Director but not referred to Chest Clinic:			
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	2	-	2
Giant bullous emphysema	1	-	1
TOTAL....	4	-	4

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

GRENDON HALL PRISON - FOURTH SURVEY

31st. August, 1959.

Response - Staff 100%
Prisoners 82%

Summary of Work:	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken ...	124	5	129
No. recalled for large films ...	1	-	1
No. recalled for clinical examination ...	-	-	-
No. referred to chest clinic ...	-	-	-
No. previously examined by M.M.R. ...	37	3	40
No. not previously examined by M.M.R. ...	87	2	89

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOUND

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.	Inactive P.T.
Prisoners	101	-	-
Staff and Dependants	28	-	-
TOTAL	129	-	-

SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE X-RAYED IN THE VARIOUS VILLAGES WITHIN THE AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT

Village	No. of General Public X-rayed
Aston Clinton	402
Brill	149
Haddenham - Firm	379
General Public ...	158
Long Crendon	210
Quainton	206
Waddesdon	373
Wendover	822
Westcott	79
Weston Turville	262

AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R. A. CANT, M.A.P.H.I., ~~C.R.S.INST.~~ M.R.S.H., A.M.S.E.,
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.
BUILDING SURVEYOR.
DEPUTY-
W. A. MATHER, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.INST.
TELEPHONE : AYLESBURY 4211 (THREE LINES).

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
43, BUCKINGHAM STREET,
AYLESBURY,
BUCKS.

August, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY.

I have the honour to report on the work of the Inspector's branch of the Department for the year 1959.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance:

The Programme at the end of the year showed a very limited advance as compared with previous years. This was due to the fact that in 1959 we no longer had an officer specifically engaged on Housing and cases were only brought forward as they occurred during the routine work of the District Inspectors. However, a further 19 Demolition Orders and 4 Closing Orders were made. Fourteen properties were demolished and proposals were received for reconditioning a further 20 properties subject to Orders.

The recorded position at the year's end was:-

No. of properties inspected	372
No. of properties deleted from list upon inspection	13
No. of properties deleted from list:-	
(a) Demolished informally	3
(b) Made fit informally	13
(c) Bought by R.D.C. for reconditioning ...	2
Properties represented to Committee ...	248
Action to Date	
No. of Demolition Orders made	148
No. of Closing Orders made	75
No. of properties in respect of which Undertakings accepted not to re-let ...	7
No. of properties of which Undertakings accepted to carry out works	23
No. of properties demolished	47
No. of properties made fit as a result of an Undertaking	19
No. of properties subject to Demolition Orders or Closing Orders for which proposals to recondition have been submitted and accepted	39
No. of properties subject to Demolition Orders or Closing Orders made fit as a result of work carried out	21

Housing Repairs:

Fifty-eight houses were repaired during the year, fifteen as a result of formal action and forty-three following informal acti

Certificates of Disrepair:

No certificates were issued during the year.

Improvement Grants:

The new Standard Grant scheme, limited to £155 per property for the five specific amenities (Hot Water System, Bath, Washbasi Food Store and W.C.), was introduced during the year. Altogether 13 applications under this scheme were received.

A total of 55 applications for Discretionary Grants were submitted. This resumes the average obtaining prior to the curtailment operating during the early part of 1958.

The policy of granting 50% of the "approved expense" has bee adhered to and at the end of the year the summary of applications received since the inception of the original scheme was as follow

No. of Grants on Council property	3
No. of private properties covered by applications received	352
No. approved	306
No. refused	30
No. withdrawn before approval	13
No. in abeyance	3
	352

Total amount of Grants = £ 69,198. 9s. 3d.

NEW BUILDINGS

The number of plans submitted increased yet again to 620. These are summarised below:-

Building Byelaws - Town & Country Planning Act

Dwelling Houses

New	90	for 194	houses.
Layout plans	3	for 70	houses.
Outline applications	124		
Conversions	23		
Alterations and Additions ...	100		
Number of Private Enterprise Dwellinghouses completed ...	155		

Industrial

Alterations and Additions to Factories and Workshops ...	1
Outline applications	1

/Cont'd..

New Buildings (Continued)

Miscellaneous

Agricultural Buildings	...	...	44
Private Garages	...	...	137
Caravans	...	...	29
Others	...	...	68

No. of dwellings completed:

Private	...	...	155
Local Authority	...		14
Total	...		169

During the year, one notice under Section 65 of the Public Health Act, 1936 was served in respect of works which had been carried out to a dwellinghouse in contravention of the Building Byelaws. The builder complied with this notice by alterations and rebuilding to comply with byelaw requirements.

A new bungalow, which had been occupied without provision of a suitable water supply, was vacated after service of a Notice under Section 137 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

As a result of difficulties which had arisen owing to the erection of a number of poultry broiler houses in two parishes, action was taken by the County Council to regain planning control over such buildings in six parishes within the proposed Green Belt area.

Purchase Notices were served on the Council in respect of three properties, on two different sites, which were the subject of demolition proceedings and where permission to redevelop had been refused. In the case of one property, the County Council was named as the purchasing authority.

Moveable Dwellings

During the year, 25 caravans were licensed and given temporary planning permission. This figure includes 11 renewal licences. No site licences were issued.

FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses:

During the year under review, the Order and Direction made under The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 were issued requiring the submission of a Report on existing Slaughterhouses and slaughtering facilities in each district by 2nd November, 1960.

Detailed surveys and reports on the four remaining slaughterhouse were made, but the main report, necessitating consultation with interested parties and adjoining Authorities, could not be commenced before the end of the year.

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Slaughterhouses (Continued)

Full inspection was maintained at all times of all routine and special slaughtering. The schedule of inspections and condemnations for the year is as follows:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	165	15	5	1203	670
Number inspected	165	15	5	1203	670
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	4
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	40	5	-	50	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	24.24	33.33	-	4.24	5.82
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	3	-	-	-	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.82	-	-	-	4.78
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	2	1	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	1.21	6.66	-	-	-

Number of visits to slaughterhouses	...	412
Total number of carcases inspected	...	2,470
Total weight of meat condemned	...	1,583 lbs.
Number of licensed slaughtermen	...	13

Milk Licences:

The following licences for sale of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk were issued during the year:-

Dealer's Licences	Pasteurised	20
	Tuberculin Tested	16
	Sterilized	5
Supplementary Licences	Pasteurised	6
	Tuberculin Tested	6
	Sterilized	3

Ice Cream Registrations:

New Ice Cream Registrations during the year ... = 3

Food Premises:

Routine inspections were carried out and various improvements and additions to facilities were obtained at food premises and shops. Generally it is found that tradespeople are well aware of the current requirements and need little persuasion to effect improvements. The present-day standard of village shops shows a most notable advance, not only in general cleanliness but in layout and equipment.

No prosecutions were necessary during 1959.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

It was not possible to improve the collection during the year but a weekly service was maintained over 70% of the area. This standard is not kept up without a marked effort on the part of the collectors. The growth of the district is steadily going on and really becomes apparent when dealing with this service.

Four Dennis "Paxits" and one Side-loader cover the district. It was decided during the year that the first of the original three "Paxits" purchased in 1950 should be replaced during next financial year. After carrying out trial demonstrations the purchase of a "Paxit Major" was recommended when the change was effected, since this machine, operating in the Western part of the district, would be able to effect economies in mileage travelled owing to its greater capacity, thus giving added collecting time each day.

Test weighings are carried out regularly and from these it is estimated that approximately 7,500 tons of refuse was collected and disposed of last year. Almost all of this is dealt with at Hartwell Tip by one man operating a Chaseside Mechanical Shovel.

During the year, the Depot buildings were completed by the addition of the Salvage Store and installation of an electric baling press. This has greatly facilitated the production of waste paper for salvage and only availability of labour limits output. It is hoped to show a considerable increase in sales during the coming year.

Public Cleansing (Continued)

Following complaints concerning deposit of litter in hedges and ditches, and an increase in requests for dealing with other than domestic refuse, the Council gave me authority to accept such waste for disposal at my discretion upon payment at the rate of £1 per load. In the case of special items from houses, e.g. bedsteads and similar articles of furniture, a nominal charge of 10/- is imposed. Such facilities have been welcomed and used to quite a reasonable extent, no doubt to the advantage of the district generally.

Bin Hire Scheme:

This scheme continues to expand, there being 2,500 bins on hire at 31st December, 1959. The annual hiring fee is 5/- per bin. Apart from being a considerable aid to the collection service, this scheme avoids many difficulties which used to arise over the provision of satisfactory bins.

Litter Bins:

A supply of litter bins was obtained late in the year after a considerable delay and a number were erected.

The question of suitable litter bins at main road lay-bys was discussed, but deferred pending a recommendation for an approved type to be used on a County basis.

Of even more importance than the introduction of an approved bin for these locations is the need for a regular and frequent collection service for the receptacles now in use. The present situation does not reflect creditably on anyone.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The Westcott Sewerage Scheme was completed during the year and by December only 7 occupied properties had not been connected.

Work continued on the schemes at Dinton and Shabbington, whilst at Chilton and Oakley new schemes were commenced in May and June respectively. One section of the Dinton scheme had been completed by the end of the year.

A tender in the sum of £38,773 was approved in November for the additional sewerage and new Disposal Works at Long Crendon. It was anticipated that the work would be started early in 1960.

In October, a scheme for the village of Upper Winchendon, estimated to cost £2,456, prepared in the office, was submitted to the Council and approved.

Instructions were given to the Consulting Engineers in October to prepare documents for tender for the Hardwick and Weedon Scheme.

/Continued.....

Sewage Disposal, Sewerage and Drainage (Continued)

Efforts were being made to complete the details of the Grendon Underwood scheme at the end of the year. Fortunately, agreement had been reached on the purchase of the Disposal Site.

Various extensions and maintenance works were carried out during the year, as follows:-

Scraping and descaling the sewer at Long Crendon,
- 620 yards = £375.

Extension of sewer, Willis Road, Haddenham,
- 227 yards = £405.

Cleansing of Land Treatment Area at Quainton Sewage Disposal Site,
= £60.

Sewer extension, Fern Lane, Haddenham,
- 45 yards = £ 95.

At Dinton, alterations were required to the drainage system of some private property in New Road. The Council were advised that a certain section should be laid as a public sewer and this was done, the additional cost (£63) being met by the Council.

At all the existing Works, sludge disposal continues to be a most difficult problem. The quantities dealt with seem to increase steadily but the great difficulty is how to obtain effective drying. Frequently the sludge has to be moved when quite unfit and this gives rise to serious complaints. On some sites, at least, the method of sludge treatment will have to be re-examined and this will probably mean the introduction of a more costly process.

WATER SUPPLY

The receipt of adverse reports on samples of water from the local supply at Lower Winchendon was referred to in my last Annual Report. During the year under review, further unsatisfactory reports were received and warning notices had to be issued to all consumers. After lengthy negotiations, arrangements were made by the owner of Winchendon Estate for the Bucks Water Board to supply the village via the existing mains. Although the changeover had not been effected, it was imminent at the end of the year.

This development means that all parishes in the District will have a mains water supply. Unfortunately, it does not ensure complete coverage since in a rural area there are bound to be many properties where a main supply is not practicable. From time to time the Council gives financial assistance for local schemes to extend the water mains, helping gradually to eliminate the localities which are still inadequately served.

PEST DESTRUCTION

Mr. F.C. Cox, who had been a Rodent Operator with this Council since 1944, retired at the end of August. The work was carried on by Mr. A.W. Gilbert, who was appointed in 1957 to assist Mr. Cox.

During the summer, both operators were asked to undertake the destruction of wasps' nests in large numbers. This was carried out with skill and no little courage by both operators and the service was greatly appreciated. During the season, 250 nests were destroyed.

Various other insect pests are dealt with, occasionally, little known types are met with which have to be identified before treatment is applied. For expert opinion and advice, reference is made to the Bureau of Messrs. Cooper, McDougal & Robertson of Berkhamsted, where help is always available.

The basic work under this heading is, of course, rat destruction, and below is set out the full year's Return of Inspections and Treatments. A number of Contracts for treatment at farms have been entered into and the work done seems to meet with much satisfaction. I must confess, however, that the overall response from farmers has been most disappointing.

No. of properties in which infestation was discovered

	Infested by Rats	Serious Infestation of Mice
Local Authority properties	36	-
Dwelling Houses	156	2
Business Premises	9	-
Agricultural Properties	137	2

No. of Properties Inspected

	As a result of notification	Otherwise	No. of Properties Treated
Local Authority Properties	-	280	36
Dwelling Houses ...	71	1821	157
Business Premises ...	-	122	9
Agricultural Properties	21	491	137

Total number of inspections = 2,806.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

89 licences were issued in respect of petrol stores. All new installations and alterations to existing installations were inspected and tested before licences were issued.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

The following summary gives a record of the visits and inspections made during 1959 and affords some indication of the varied duties of the Department:-

New Buildings	1,635
Dangerous Buildings	4
Ditches	51
Drain Tests	393
Drainage	550
Factories	27
Food Premises and Food Inspection	118
Housing Act, 1936	509
Improvement Grants, ...	621
Infestation and Infectious Diseases ...	36
Levelling	63
Milk Regulations	31
Miscellaneous	300
Moveable Dwellings	66
Nuisances	172
Petroleum Acts	63
Public Health Act	364
Refuse Collection and Scavenging	106
Rent Act	3
Rodent Control	2,806
Sanitary Accommodation (Agricultural Workers)	6
Sewage Works	171
Sewerage	372
Slaughterhouses	412
Smoke	3
Water Supply	56
Water Samples	47

STAFF

Following the recommendation of the Health Committee at the end of 1958 regarding additional Staff, a report was presented to the Establishment Committee on the work and responsibilities of the Department. It was subsequently decided to increase the number of Inspectors by one and in September, Mr. J.K. Hunt joined the Department as a District Public Health Inspector and Building Inspector.

In January, Mr. J. Harrison, Junior Clerk, started his 2-years' National Service and the following month Mr. R.V. Sharp was appointed as a Junior Clerk.

Finally, I wish to record my appreciation of the work of all members of the Department and especially of the harmony and co-operation which is such a noteworthy feature and goes a long way to smooth out the difficulties and problems which are often encountered.

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. CANT, M.A.P.H.I.,M.R.S.H.,A.M.S.E.

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Building Surveyor.